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Collins

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(54) **WINDOW BLIND CLEANING SYSTEM**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A47L 4/02 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **15/220.3**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 15/220.3
See application file for complete search history.

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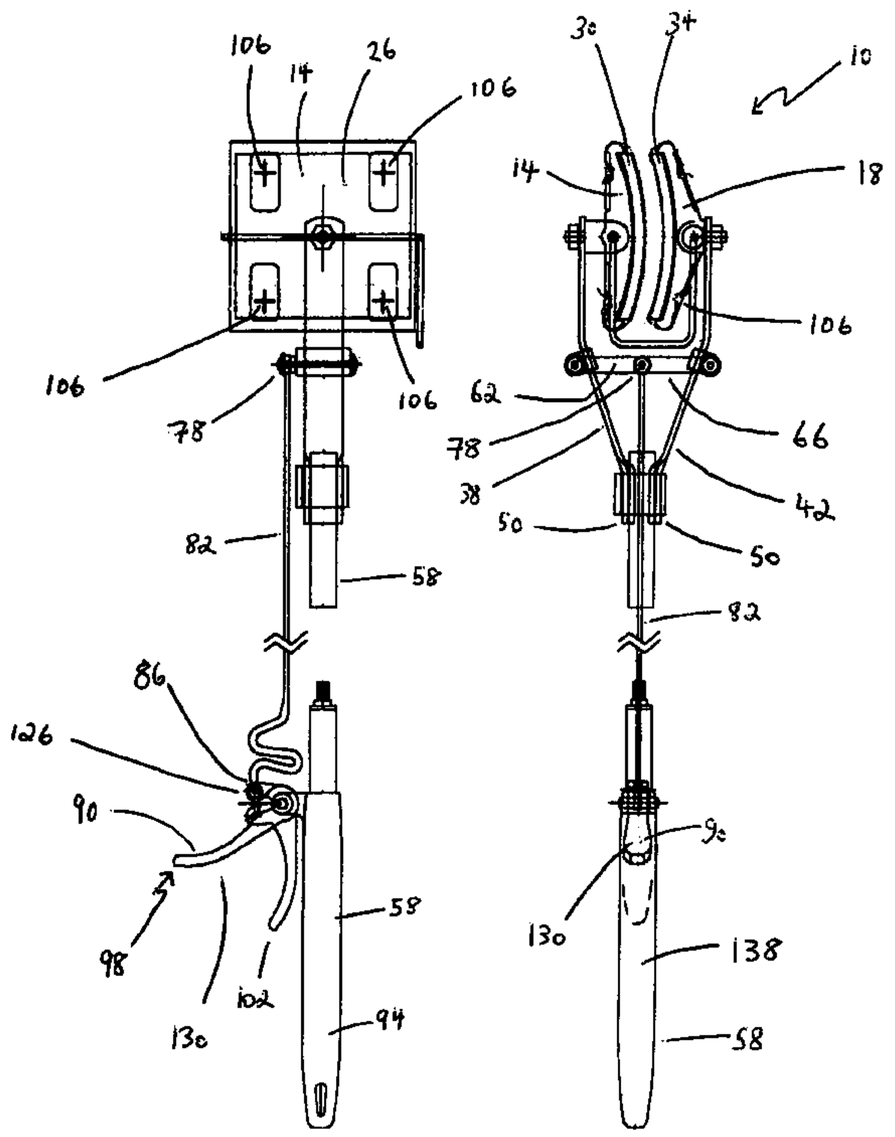
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A window blind cleaning system for cleaning the slats of vertical or horizontal blinds of varying heights, with a user selected cleaning material placed over the cleaning heads, which the user remotely actuates to close the cleaning surfaces onto the slats to be cleaned. The system includes a handle, an extension handle, handle mounted trigger, actuating link, backing plates with attached cleaning pads forming the cleaning heads. Resilient supporting arms urge the cleaning heads apart and the trigger operated actuating link urges the cleaning heads together about the slat. A resilient U-shaped restraining bar may be used to further urge the cleaning heads apart. The cleaning pads and covers over them are removably attached. The backing plates and cleaning pads are shaped to conform to the blind slats. The primary handle is formed from multiple sections. Assembled together, these sections form a single handle allowing the user greater cleaning reach.

19 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



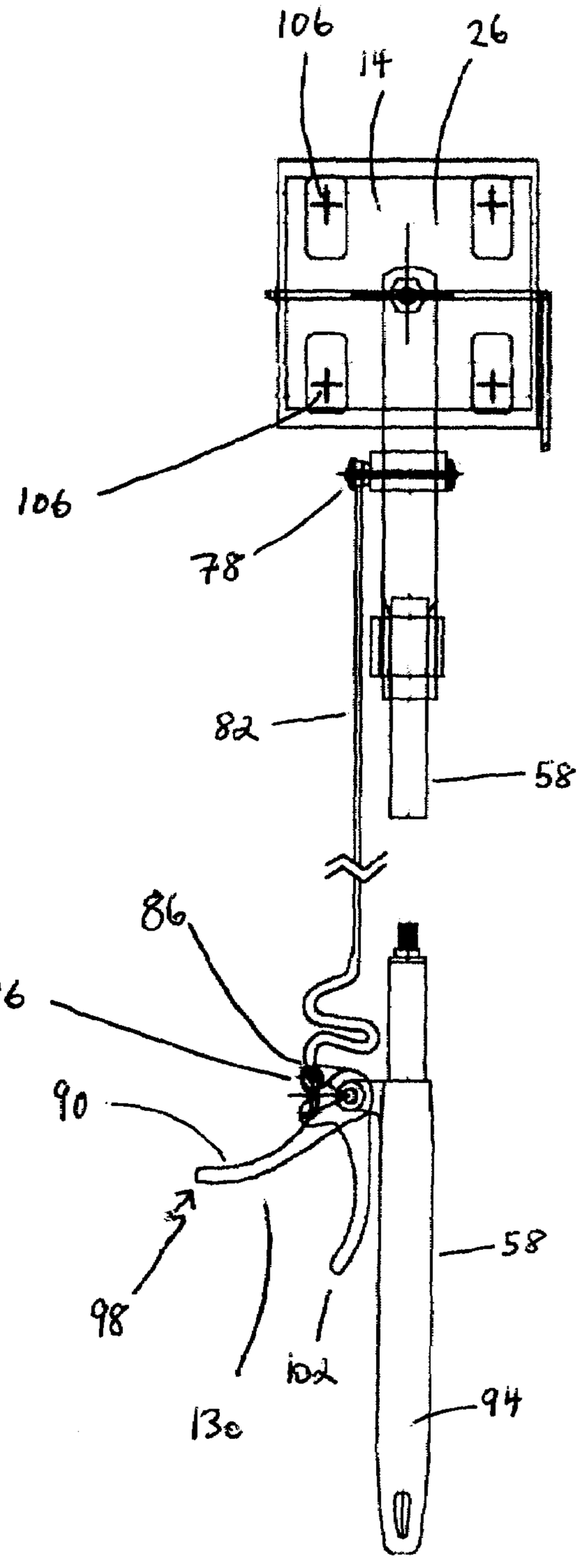

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FIG. 1A

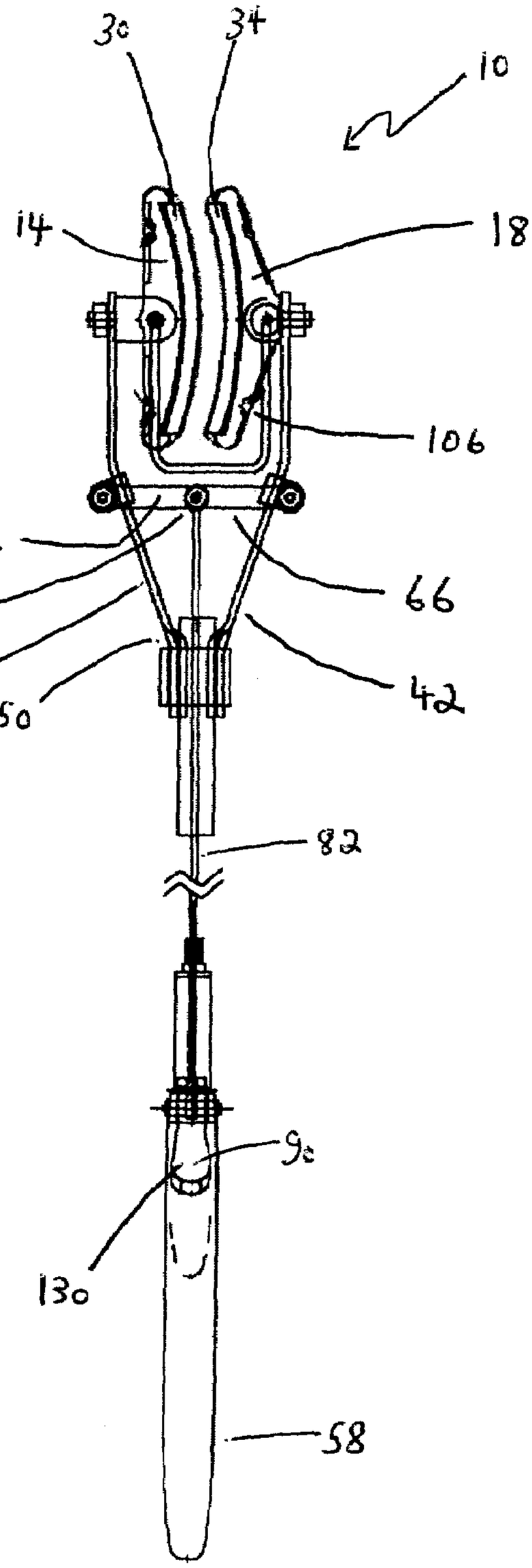
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FIG 1B

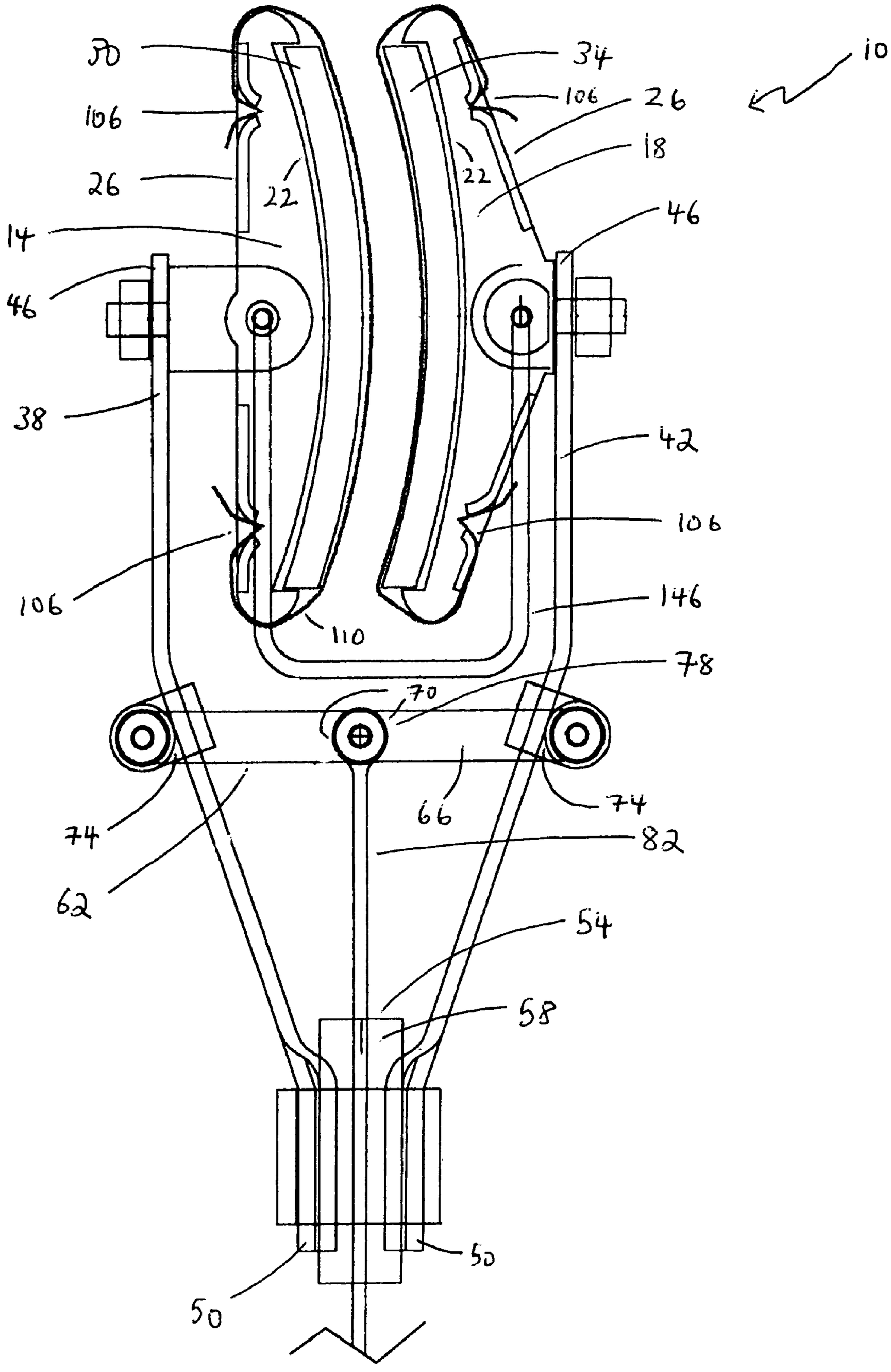
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FIG 2

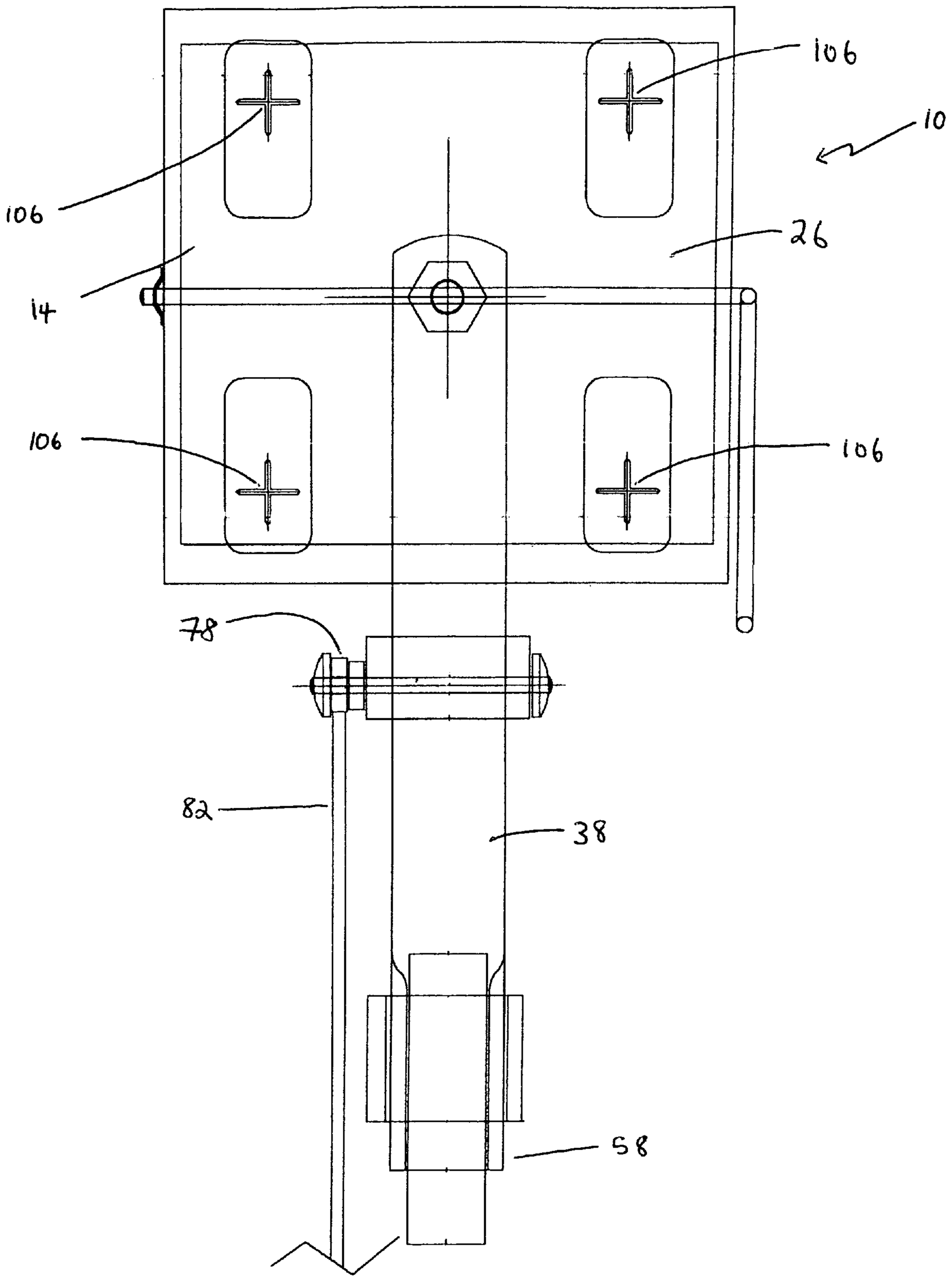

FIG 3

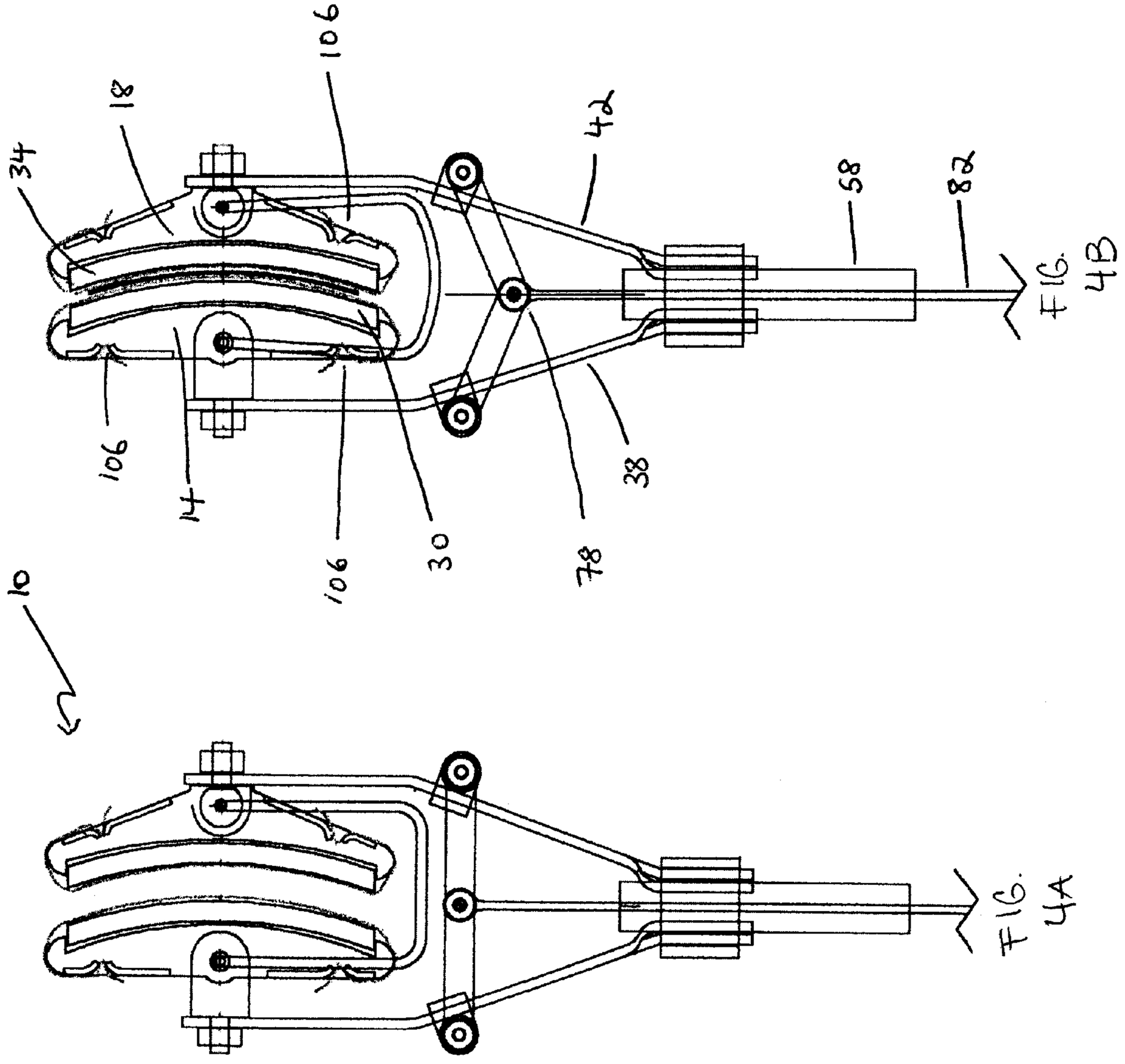
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FIG. 4B
FIG. 4A

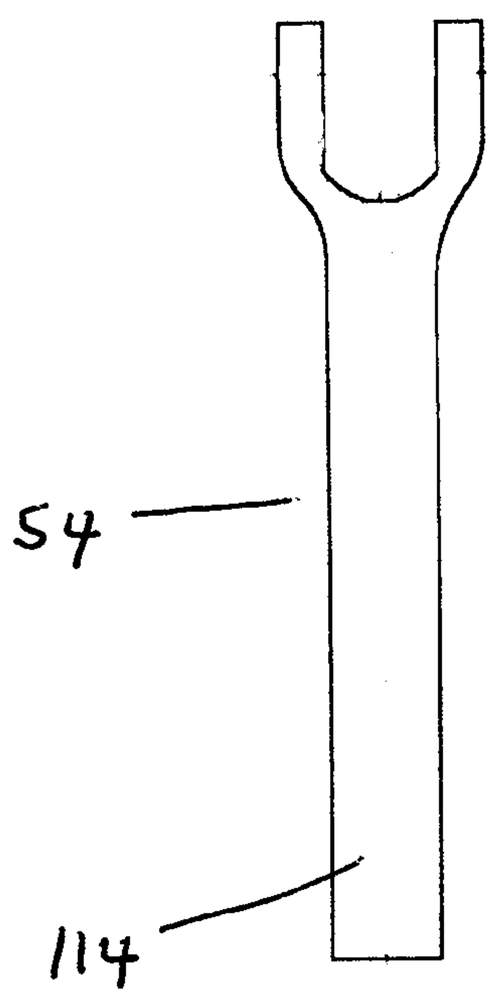

FIG. 5A

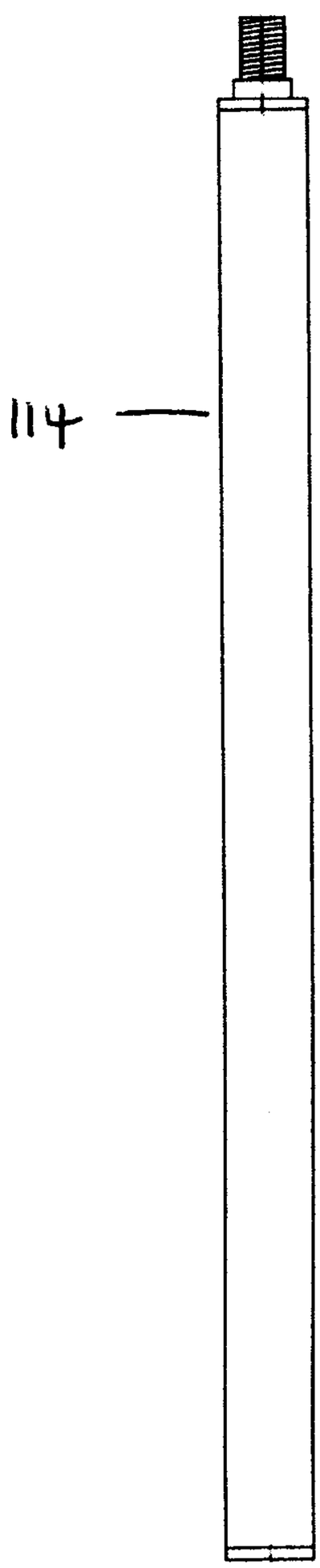

FIG. 5B

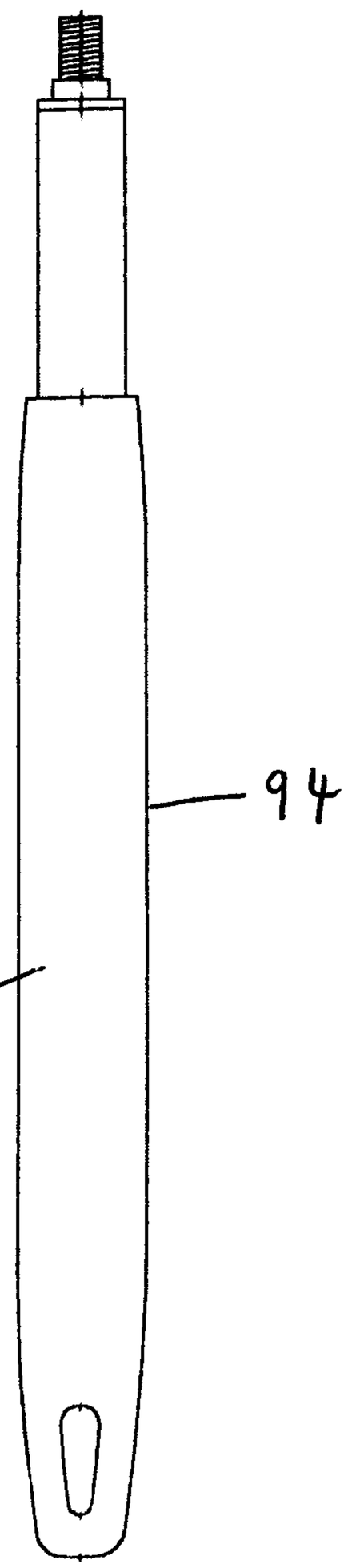

FIG. 5C

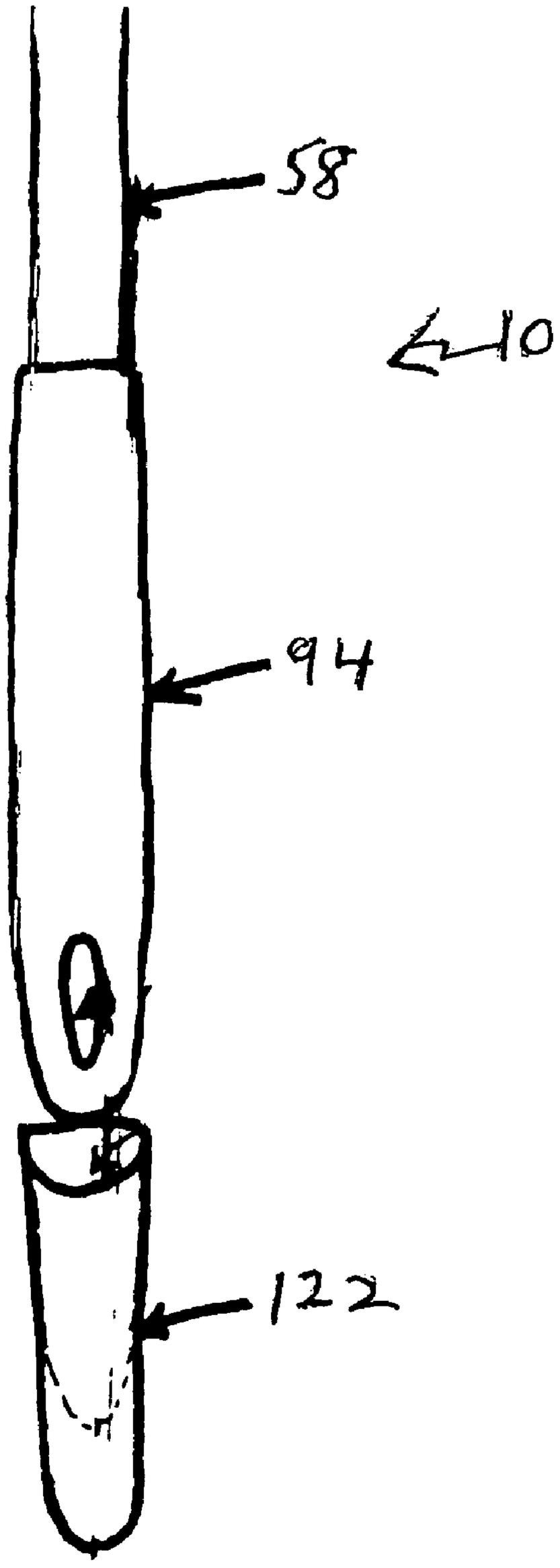

FIG 6

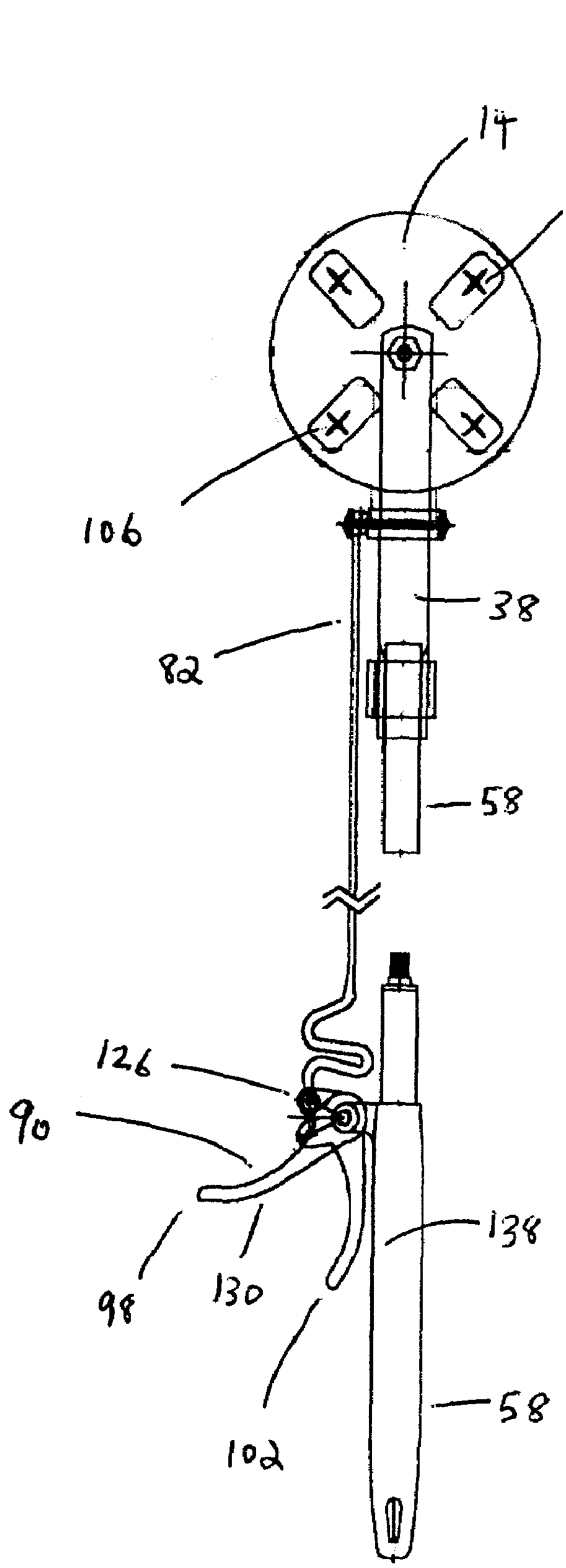
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FIG. 7A

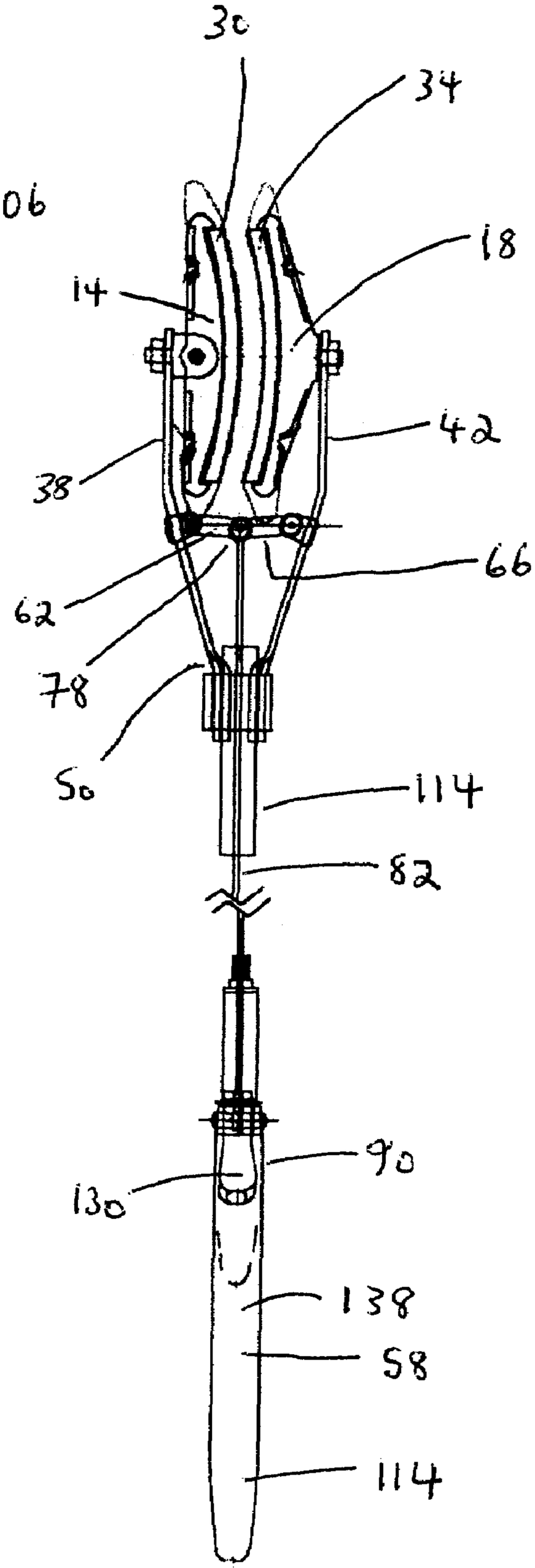
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FIG. 7B

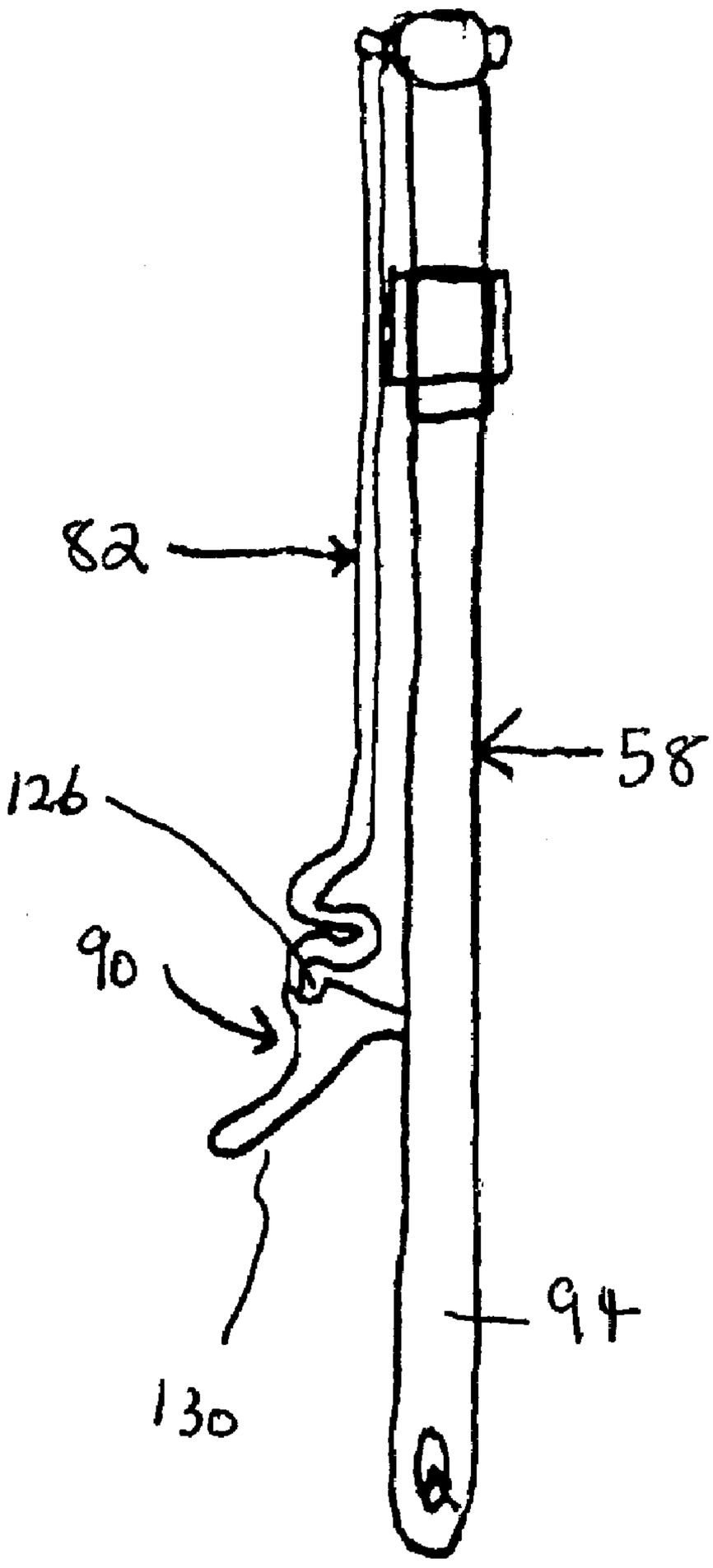

FIG. 8A

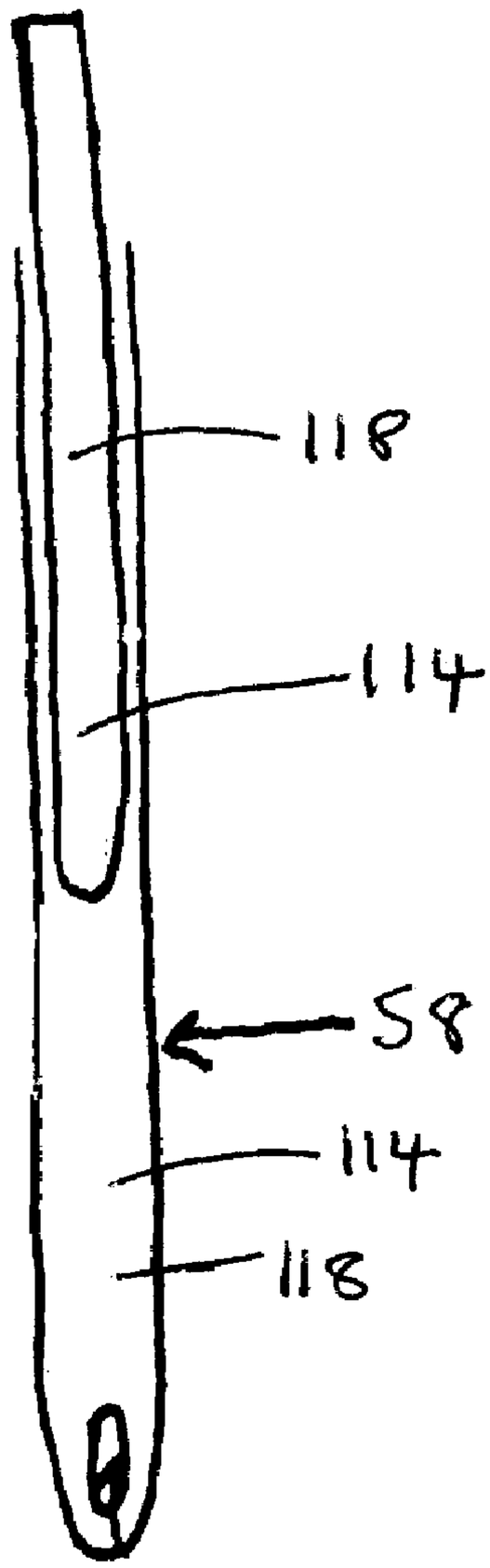

FIG. 8B

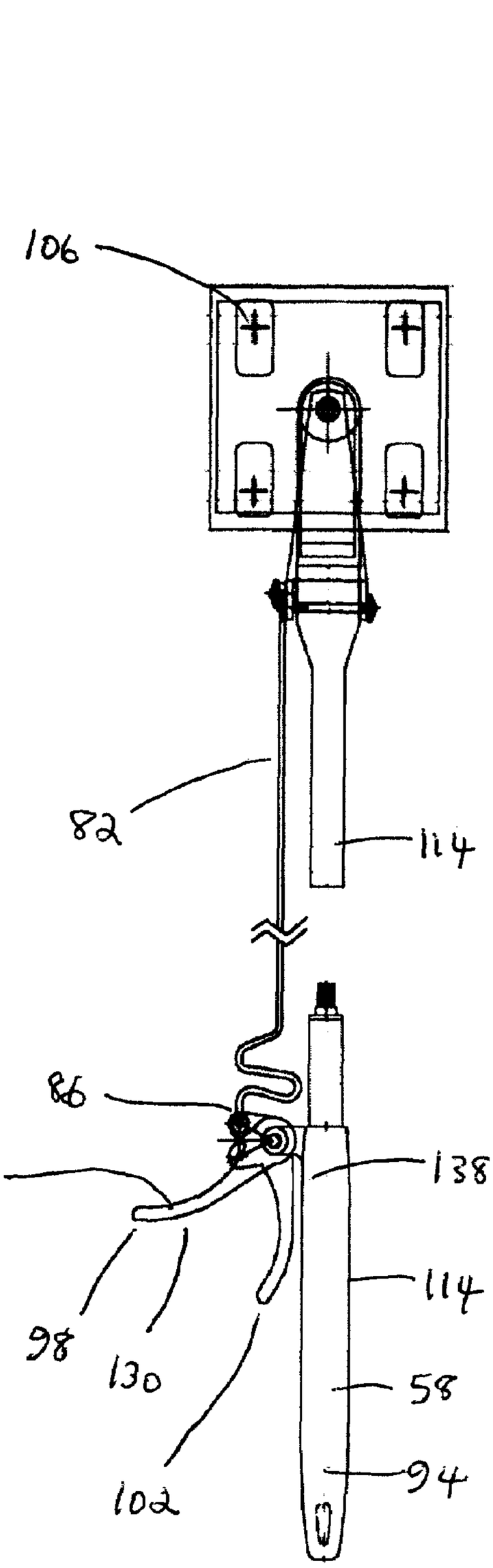
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FIG. 9A

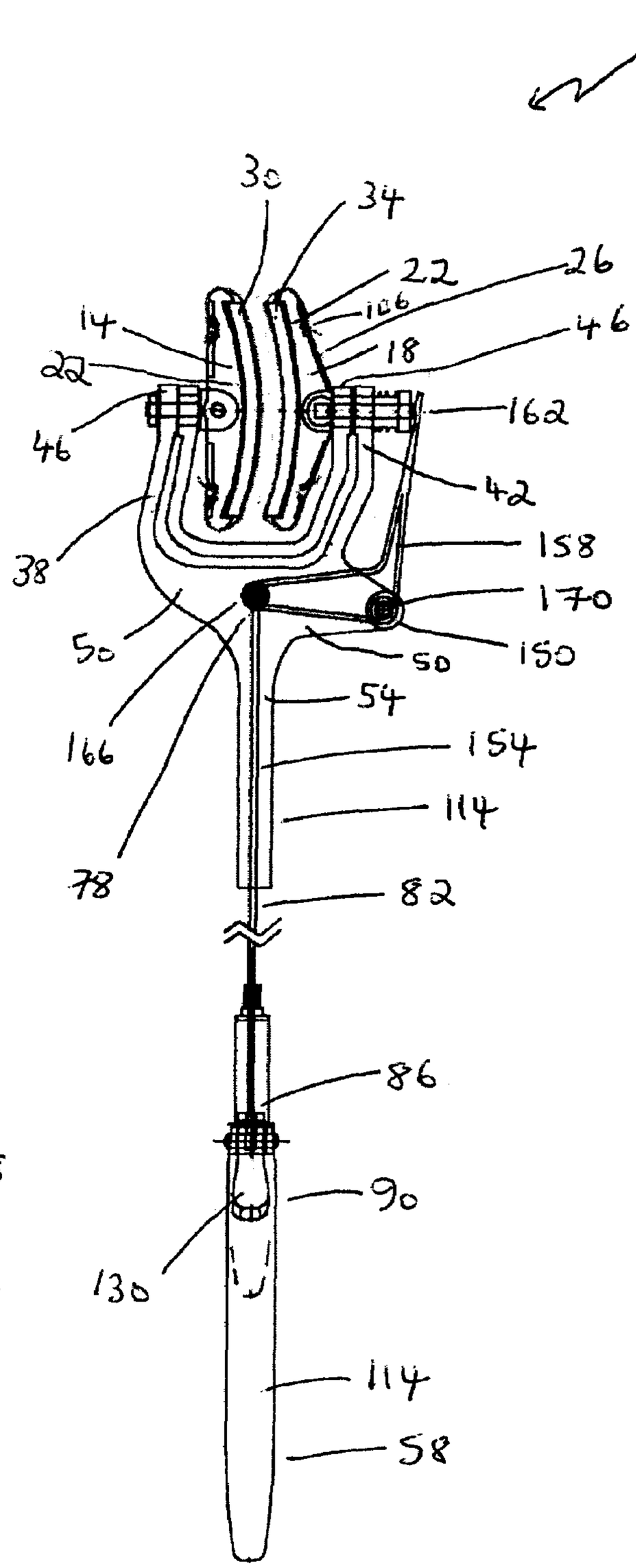
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FIG. 9B

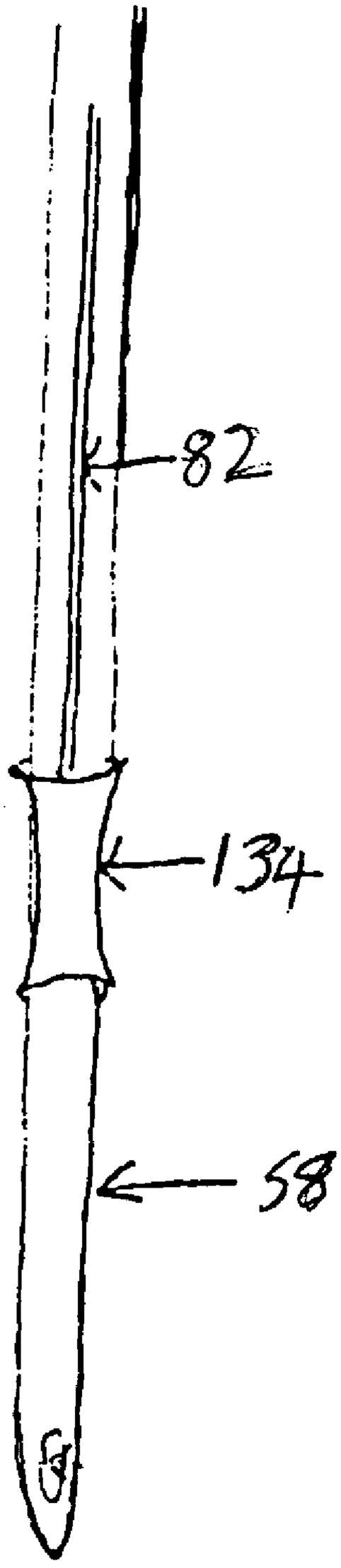

FIG 10

WINDOW BLIND CLEANING SYSTEM

PRIOR APPLICATION

The instant application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/637,626 filed Dec. 18, 2004.

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to window blind cleaners and more specifically it relates to a window blind cleaning system with interchangeable cleaning heads for cleaning the slats of vertical or horizontal blinds of varying heights, with a user selected cleaning material placed over the cleaning heads which the user remotely actuates using minimal pressure to close the cleaning surfaces onto the slat surface to be cleaned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It can be appreciated that window blind cleaners have been in use for years. Typically, window blind cleaners are comprised of devices resembling tongs with sponges attached to the ends. A horizontal window blind cleaner has a short handle with multiple brushes. Another product has an elongated handle and a cleaning surface positioned at a right angle to the handle and is meant for dusting ceiling fans. Yet another type of window blind cleaner has multiple brushes with a vacuum cleaner attachment. Still another system for cleaning vertical blinds allows the user to hang vertical blinds in a shower and run water on the blinds until they are clean.

The main problem with conventional window blind cleaners is that they do not allow the user versatility in the type of cleaning product to apply to the window blind slat surface. In addition, they do not allow users to easily reach and clean window blind slats at varying heights. Yet another problem is that existing products require the user to apply consistent full hand pressure to handles to close the devices for cleaning. Another problem with conventional window blind cleaners is limited control over the amount of pressure needed to close the cleaning surfaces together during the cleaning process. Further, with conventional blind cleaning systems, the blinds must often be removed from the window for cleaning.

Yet another problem is that existing products require the user to apply consistent full hand pressure to handles to close the devices for cleaning. Still another problem is that the user has no control over varying the type of cleaning provided by the cleaning heads, or, varying the type of cleaning head used. Also, another problem is limited control over the type of pressure needed to close the cleaning surfaces together during the cleaning process.

In these respects, the window blind cleaning system according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing addresses all of the problems identified above.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,369,836, issued to Horne, discloses a ceiling fan blade cleaner including a flexible, flat tubular, textile sleeve of sufficient length to completely encase a fan blade from tip to root, a flat spring member to cause said sleeve to conform to the blade surfaces and a pair of metal plates to releasably engage the root end of said sleeve and to withdraw said sleeve in wiping engagement with the surfaces of said blade to remove dirt therefrom and to trap such dirt as it is removed.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,839,147, issued to Chia-Yi, et al., is directed to a mopping device includes a first part and a second part pivotally connected to the first part from which a handle

is pivotally disposed. Two connecting members and a torsion spring are respectively pivotally connected between the first and the second part so that the second part is foldable toward the first part. Each of the first part and the second part has at least one clamping member pivotally connected thereto such that a cleaning member is securely disposed to an underside of the first and the second part by being clamped by the two clamping members.

U.S. Pat. No. D328,373, issued to Murray, discloses an ornamental design for a ceiling fan duster

It is an objective of the present invention to provide a system for cleaning slats of vertical or horizontal blinds of varying heights. It is a further objective to provide a system that allows for use of varying cleaning materials that are removably attached to the cleaning heads of the system. It is a still further objective of the invention to provide a system that will provide an efficient means to apply uniform pressure to the blind slats through a remote actuator. Finally, it is an objective to a system that can introduce cleaning fluids onto the system cleaning heads.

While some of the objectives of the present invention are disclosed in the prior art, none of the inventions found include all of the requirements identified.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention addresses all of the deficiencies of prior art window blind cleaning systems inventions and satisfies all of the objectives described above.

(1) A window blind cleaning system providing the desired features can be constructed from the following components. First and second backing plates are provided. Each of the backing plates has an inner surface and an outer surface. The inner surfaces are sized and shaped to conform to a shape of a window blind. First and second cleaning pads are provided. The cleaning pads are sized and shaped to cover the inner surfaces. Means are provided for attaching the cleaning pads to the inner surfaces.

First and second support arms are provided. Each of the support arms has an upper end, a lower end and is formed of resilient material. Each of the support arms is pivotally mounted to one of the outer surfaces of the backing plates at the upper end and fixedly attached adjacent a first end of a handle at the lower end. First and second toggle links are provided. The toggle links have inner and outer ends, are pivotally attached at their outer ends to the first and second support arms, respectively, between their upper and lower ends. The toggle links are pivotally attached at their inner ends to a first end of an actuating link. The actuating link is located substantially parallel to the handle and connecting at a second end to a trigger. The trigger is pivotally attached adjacent a second end of the handle.

The trigger moves the actuating link from an extended position, allowing the support arms to separate the backing plates, to a retracted position, closing the backing plates with attached cleaning pads about the window blind against outward urging of the support arms. When the trigger moves the actuating link to the retracted position the first and second cleaning pads will be clamped on either side of the window blind and are movable along a length of the blind for cleaning. When the trigger moves the actuating link to the extended position, the support arms will separate the backing plates and the cleaning pads from the blind for removal from the blind slat.

(2) In a variant of the invention, the inner surface of the first backing plate is concave and the inner surface of the second backing plate is convex.

(3) In another variant, the backing plates are substantially rectangular in shape.

(4) In still another variant, the backing plates are substantially circular in shape and are rotatably mounted to the support arms.

(5) In a further variant, the cleaning pads are removably attached to the inner surfaces using means selected from the group consisting of:

adhesive, snaps, hook and loop fasteners, snap-on brackets and clamps.

(6) In still a further variant, a plurality of attachment slots are located on the outer surface of the backing plates for attaching a cleaning cloth over the cleaning pads.

(7) In another variant of the invention, the cleaning pads are sponge-like air-filled members.

(8) In still another variant, the handle is comprised of at least two sections that are removably joined together to provide a compact system capable of extended reach.

(9) In a further variant, the handle includes at least two telescoping sections that extend to vary a length of the handle.

(10) In still a further variant, the second end of the handle is adapted to fit a handle extension to further extend a reach of the system.

(11) In another variant of the invention, the trigger includes a cam-locking mechanism. The mechanism maintains the actuating link in the retracted position against the outward urging of the support arms.

(12) In still another variant, the trigger is a pivoting lever attached adjacent the second end of the handle.

(13) In a further variant, the trigger is a sliding sleeve disposed about the handle adjacent the second end of the handle.

(14) In still a further variant, the actuating link is disposed adjacent an outer surface of the handle.

(15) In another variant of the invention, the actuating link is located within a hollow core of the handle.

(16) In still another variant, the window blind cleaning system includes a U-shaped restraining bar. The restraining bar is formed of resilient material, extending from the outer surface of the first backing plate to the outer surface of the second backing plate and further urging the backing plates apart.

(17) In a further variant, the backing plates with attached cleaning pads are removably attached to the support arms.

(18) In still a further variant, the window blind cleaning system further includes a container. The container holds a cleaning fluid and is secured to the handle. A tube extends from the container to at least one of the cleaning pads. When the bottle is tilted or squeezed, a quantity of cleaning fluid is dispensed onto the cleaning pad.

(19) In a final variant of the invention, a window blind cleaning system includes first and second backing plates. Each of the backing plates has an inner surface and an outer surface. The inner surfaces are sized and shaped to conform to a shape of a window blind. First and second cleaning pads are provided. The cleaning pads are sized and shaped to cover the inner surfaces. Means are provided for attaching the cleaning pads to the inner surfaces. First and second support arms are provided. Each of the support arms has an upper end, a lower end, is formed of resilient material, is pivotally mounted to one of the outer surfaces at the upper end and fixedly attached adjacent a first end of a handle at the lower end.

The first support arm holds the first backing plate with attached cleaning pad in a fixed position. The second support arm further includes a pivot point. The pivot point is located outwardly from a centerline of the handle. An actuating arm is provided. The arm has a top end, a bottom end, a point of rotation. The arm is pivotally mounted to the second support arm at the pivot point, bearing against the outer surface of the second backing plate at the top end and attached to a first end of an actuating link at the bottom end. The actuating link is located substantially parallel to the handle and connects at a second end to a trigger. The trigger is pivotally attached adjacent a second end of the handle. The trigger moves the actuating link from an extended position, allowing the second support arm to withdraw the second backing plate from close proximity to the first backing plate, to a retracted position.

In the retracted position the actuating link urges the second backing plate toward the first backing plate and closes the backing plates with attached cleaning pads about the window blind against outward urging of the second support arm. When the trigger moves the actuating link to the retracted position the first and second cleaning pads will be clamped on either side of the window blind and are movable along a length of the blind for cleaning. When the trigger moves the actuating link to the extended position, the support arms will separate the backing plates and the cleaning pads from the blind for removal from the blind slat.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1**A is a top view of the present invention showing the major components fully assembled;

FIG. **1**B is a side view of the FIG. **1**A embodiment:

FIG. **2** is a detailed partial top view of the FIG. **1**B embodiment showing the cleaning apparatus head;

FIG. **3** is a detailed partial side view of the FIG. **1**A embodiment showing the cleaning head apparatus;

FIG. **4**A illustrates the cleaning heads of the FIG. **1**A embodiment in the open positions;

FIG. **4**B illustrates the cleaning heads of the FIG. **1**A embodiment in the closed position;

FIG. **5**A is a top view of the FIG. **1**A embodiment illustrating the upper portion of the handle sections;

FIG. **5**B is a top view of the FIG. **1**A embodiment illustrating the middle portion of the handle sections;

FIG. **5**C is a top view of the FIG. **1**A embodiment illustrating the lower portion of the handle sections;

FIG. **6** is a side view of the FIG. **1** embodiment illustrating an extension handle;

FIG. **7**A is is a top view of the present invention made with circular backing plates and cleaning pads;

FIG. **7**B is is a side view of the present invention made with circular backing plates and cleaning pads;

FIG. **8**A is a top view of the present invention made with a solid handle;

FIG. **8**B is a top view of the present invention made with a a telescoping handle;

FIG. **9**A is a top view of a second embodiment of the present invention made with a single side closing backing plate;

FIG. **9**B is side view of the FIG. **9**A embodiment;

FIG. **10** is an illustration of the present invention with a sliding trigger to close the cleaning heads.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

(1) FIGS. **1**A-**8**B illustrate a window blind cleaning system **10** providing the desired features that can be constructed from the following components. First **14** and second **18** backing plates are provided. Each of the backing plates **14**, **18** has an inner surface **22** and an outer surface **26**. The inner surfaces **22** are sized and shaped to conform to a shape of a window

blind (not shown). First **30** and second **34** cleaning pads are provided. The cleaning pads **30**,**34** are sized and shaped to cover the inner surfaces **22**. Means (not shown) are provided for attaching the cleaning pads **30**, **34** to the inner surfaces **22**.

First **38** and second **42** support arms are provided. Each of the support arms **38**,**42** has an upper end **46**, a lower end **50** and is formed of resilient material. Each of the support arms **38**, **42** is pivotally mounted to one of the outer surfaces **26** of the backing plates **14**, **18** at the upper end **46** and fixedly attached adjacent a first end **54** of a handle **58** at the lower end **50**. First **62** and second **66** toggle links are provided. The toggle links **62**, **66** have inner **70** and outer **74** ends, are pivotally attached at their outer ends **74** to the first **38** and second **42** support arms, respectively, between their upper **46** and lower **50** ends. The toggle links **62**, **66** are pivotally attached at their inner ends **70** to a first end **78** of an actuating link **82**. As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the actuating link **82** is located substantially parallel to the handle **58** and connecting at a second end **86** to a trigger **90**.

The trigger **90** is pivotally attached adjacent a second end **94** of the handle **58**. The trigger **90** moves the actuating link **82** from an extended position **98**, allowing the support arms **38**, **42** to separate the backing plates **14**, **18**, to a retracted position **102**, closing the backing plates **14**, **18** with attached cleaning pads **30**, **34** about the window blind against outward urging of the support arms **38**, **42**. When the trigger **90** moves the actuating link **82** to the retracted position **102** the first **30** and second **34** cleaning pads will be clamped on either side of the window blind and are movable along a length of the blind for cleaning. When the trigger **90** moves the actuating link **82** to the extended position **98**, the support arms **38**, **42** will separate the backing plates **14**, **18** and the cleaning pads **30**, **34** from the blind for removal from the blind slat.

(2) In a variant of the invention, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**B and **2**, the inner surface **22** of the first backing plate **14** is concave and the inner surface **22** of the second backing plate **18** is convex.

(3) In another variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A, and **9**A, the backing plates **14**, **18** are substantially rectangular in shape.

(4) In still another variant, as illustrated in FIG. **7**A, the backing plates **14**, **18** are substantially circular in shape and are rotatably mounted to the support arms **38**, **42**.

(5) In a further variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A, **1**B, **2**, **3**,-**4**A,**4**B, **7**A, **7**B, **9**A and **9**B, the cleaning pads **30**, **34** are removably attached to the inner surfaces **22** using means selected from the group consisting of: adhesive, snaps, hook and loop fasteners, snap-on brackets and clamps (all not shown).

(6) In still a further variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A, **1**B, **2**, **3**,-**4**A, **4**B, **7**A, **7**B, **9**A and **9**B, a plurality of attachment slots **106** are located on the outer surface **26** of the backing plates **14**, **18** for attaching a cleaning cloth **110** over the cleaning pads **30**, **34**.

(7) In another variant of the invention, the cleaning pads **30**, **34** are sponge-like air-filled members.

(8) In still another variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **5**A, **5**B, **5**C, **6**-**7**A, **7**B, **8**B and **9**A and **9**B, the handle **58** is comprised of at least two sections **114** that are removably joined together to provide a compact system **10** capable of extended reach.

(9) In a further variant, as illustrated in FIG. **8**B, the handle **58** includes at least two telescoping sections **118** that extend to vary a length of the handle **58**.

(10) In still a further variant, as illustrated in FIG. **6**, the second end **94** of the handle **58** is adapted to fit a handle extension **122** to further extend a reach of the system **10**.

(11) In another variant of the invention, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A,[-]**7**A, **8**A and **9**A, the trigger **90** includes a cam-locking mechanism **126**. The mechanism **126** maintains the actuating link **82** in the retracted position **102** against the outward urging of the support arms **38**, **42**.

(12) In still another variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A, **1**B, [-]**7**A, **7**B, **8**A and **9**A and **9**B, the trigger **90** is a pivoting lever **130** attached adjacent the second end **94** of the handle **58**.

(13) In a further variant, as illustrated in FIG. **10**, the trigger **90** is a sliding sleeve **134** disposed about the handle **58** adjacent the second end **94** of the handle.

(14) In still a further variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A, **1**B, **2**, **3**,-**4**A, **4**B, **7**A, **7**B, **8**A, **9**A and **9**B and **10**, the actuating link **82** is disposed adjacent an outer surface **138** of the handle **58**.

(15) In anoiher variant of the invention, the actuating link **82** is located within a hollow core (not shown) of the handle **58**.

(16) In still another variant, as illustrated in FIG. **2**, the window blind cleaning system **10** includes a U-shaped restraining bar **146**. The restraining bar **146** is formed of resilient material, extending from the outer surface **26** of the first backing plate **14** to the outer surface **26** of the second backing plate **18** and further urging the backing plates **14**, **18** apart.

(17) In a further variant, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**A, **1**B,**2**, **3**,-**4**A, **4**B, **7**A, **7**B and **9**A and **9**B, the backing plates **14**, **18** with attached cleaning pads **30**, **34** are removably attached to the support arms **38**, **42**.

(18) In still a further variant, the window blind cleaning system **10** further includes a container (not shown). The container holds a cleaning fluid and is secured to the handle **58**. A tube (not shown) extends from the container to at least one of the cleaning pads **30**, **34**. When the bottle is tilted or squeezed, a quantity of cleaning fluid is dispensed onto the cleaning pad **30**, **34**.

(19) In a final variant of the invention, as illustrated in FIGS. **9**A and **9**B, a window blind cleaning system **10** includes first **14** and second **18** backing plates. Each of the backing plates **14**, **18** has an inner surface **22** and an outer surface **26**. The inner surfaces **22** are sized and shaped to conform to a shape of a window blind (not shown). First **30** and second **34** cleaning pads are provided. The cleaning pads **30**, **34** are sized and shaped to cover the inner surfaces **22**. Means (not shown) are provided for attaching the cleaning pads **30**, **34** to the inner surfaces **22**. First **38** and second **42** support arms are provided. Each of the support arms **38**, **42** has an upper end **46**, a lower end **50**, is formed of resilient material, is pivotally mounted to one of the outer surfaces **26** at the upper end **46** and fixedly attached adjacent a first end **54** of a handle **58** at the lower end **50**.

The first support arm **38** holds the first backing plate **14** with attached cleaning pad **30** in a fixed position. The second support arm **42** further includes a pivot point **150**. The pivot point **150** is located outwardly from a centerline **154** of the handle **58**. An actuating arm **158** is provided. The arm **158** has a top end **162**, a bottom end **166** and a point of rotation **170**. The arm **158** is pivotally mounted to the second support arm **42** at the pivot point **150**, bearing against the outer surface **26** of the second backing plate **18** at the top end **162** and attached to a first end **174** of an actuating link **82** at the bottom end **166**. The actuating link **82** is located substantially parallel to the handle **58** and connects at a second end **86** to a trigger **90**. The trigger **90** is pivotally attached adjacent a second end **94** of the handle **58**. The trigger **90** moves the actuating link **82** from an extended position **98**, allowing the second support arm **42** to withdraw the second backing plate **18** from close proximity to the first backing plate **14**, to a retracted position **102**.

In the retracted position **102** the actuating link **82** urges the second backing plate **18** toward the first backing plate **14** and closes the backing plates **14**, **18** with attached cleaning pads **30**,**34** about the window blind (not shown) against outward urging of the second support arm **42**. When the trigger **90** moves the actuating link **82** to the retracted position **102** the first **30** and second **34** cleaning pads will be clamped on either side of the window blind and are movable along a length of the blind for cleaning. When the trigger **90** moves the actuating link **82** to the extended position **98**, the support arms **38**, **42** will separate the backing plates **14**, **18** and the cleaning pads **30**,**34** from the blind for removal from the blind slat.

The invention claimed is:

1. A window blind cleaning system, comprising:

first and second backing plates, each of the backing plates having an inner surface and an outer surface;

the inner surfaces being sized and shaped to conform to a shape of a window blind;

first and second cleaning pads, the cleaning pads being sized and shaped to cover the inner surfaces;

means for attaching the cleaning pads to the inner surfaces;

first and second support arms, each of the support arms having an upper end, a lower end, being formed of resilient material, pivotally mounted to one of the outer surfaces at the upper end and fixedly attached adjacent a first end of a handle at the lower end;

first and second toggle links, the toggle links having inner and outer ends, being pivotally attached at the outer ends to the first and second support arms, respectively, between the upper and lower ends and pivotally attached at the inner ends to a first end of an actuating link;

the actuating link being disposed substantially parallel to the handle and connecting at a second end to a trigger, the trigger being pivotally attached adjacent a second end of the handle;

the trigger moving the actuating link from an extended position, allowing the support arms to separate the backing plates, to a retracted position, closing the backing plates with attached cleaning pads about the window blind against outward urging of the support arms; and

whereby, when the trigger moves the actuating link to the retracted position the first and second cleaning pads will be clamped on either side of the window blind and are movable along a length of the blind for cleaning, and when the trigger moves the actuating link to the extended position, the support arms will separate the backing plates and the cleaning pads from the blind for removal therefrom.

2. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the inner surface of the first backing plate is concave and the inner surface of the second backing plate is convex.

3. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the backing plates are substantially rectangular in shape.

4. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the backing plates are substantially circular in shape and are rotatably mounted to the support arms.

5. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the cleaning pads are removably attached to the inner surfaces using means selected from the group consisting of:

adhesive, snaps, hook and loop fasteners, snap-on brackets and clamps.

6. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein a plurality of attachment slots are disposed upon the outer surface of the backing plates for attaching a cleaning cloth over the cleaning pads.

7. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the cleaning pads are sponge-like air-filled members.

8. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the handle is comprised of at least two sections that are removably joined together to provide a compact system capable of extended reach.

9. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the handle is comprised of at least two telescoping sections that extend to vary a length of the handle.

10. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the second end of the handle is adapted to fit a handle extension to further extend a reach of the system.

11. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the trigger further comprises a cam-locking mechanism, the mechanism maintaining the actuating link in the retracted position against the outward urging of the support arms.

12. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the trigger is a pivoting lever attached adjacent the second end of the handle.

13. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the trigger is a sliding sleeve disposed about the handle adjacent the second end of thereof.

14. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the actuating link is disposed adjacent an outer surface of the handle.

15. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the actuating link is disposed within a hollow core of the handle.

16. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, further comprising a U-shaped restraining bar, the restraining bar being formed of resilient material, extending from the outer surface of the first backing plate to the outer surface of the second backing plate and further urging the backing plates apart.

17. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, wherein the backing plates with attached cleaning pads are removably attached to the support arms.

18. The window blind cleaning system, as described in claim **1**, further comprising:

a container, the container containing a cleaning fluid and being secured to the handle;

a tube, the tube extending from the container to at least one of the cleaning pads; and

whereby, when the bottle is either of tilted and squeezed, a quantity of cleaning fluid will be dispensed onto the cleaning pad.

19. A window blind cleaning system, comprising:

first and second backing plates, each of the backing plates having an inner surface and an outer surface;

the inner surfaces being sized and shaped to conform to a shape of a window blind;

first and second cleaning pads, the cleaning pads being sized and shaped to cover the inner surfaces;

means for attaching the cleaning pads to the inner surfaces;

first and second support arms, each of the support arms having an upper end, a lower end, being formed of resilient material, pivotally mounted to one of the outer surfaces at the upper end and fixedly attached adjacent a first end of a handle at the lower end;

the first support arm holding the first backing plate with attached cleaning pad in a fixed position;

the second support arm further comprising a pivot point, the pivot point disposed outwardly from a centerline of the handle;

an actuating arm, the arm having a top end, a bottom end, a point of rotation, being pivotally mounted to the second support arm at the pivot point, bearing against the outer surface of the second backing plate at the top end and attached to a first end of an actuating link at the bottom end;

the actuating link being disposed substantially parallel to the handle and connecting at a second end to a trigger, the trigger being pivotally attached adjacent a second end of the handle;

the trigger moving the actuating link from an extended position, allowing the second support arm to withdraw the second backing plate from close proximity to the first backing plate, to a retracted position, urging the second backing plate toward the first backing plate and closing the backing plates with attached cleaning pads about the window blind against outward urging of the second support arm; and

whereby, when the trigger moves the actuating link to the retracted position the first and second cleaning pads will be clamped on either side of the window blind and are movable along a length of the blind for cleaning, and when the trigger moves the actuating link to the extended position, the support arms will separate the backing plates and the cleaning pads from the blind for removal therefrom.

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